

Joan Marsh Vice President -Federal Regulatory AT&T Services, Inc. 1120 20<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W. Suite 1000 Washington, D.C. 20036

202.457.3120 Phone 832.213.0172 Fax joanmariemarsh@att.com

September 4, 2008

## VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Marlene H. Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 Bands,

WT Docket No. 06-150; Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband,

Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band,

PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On September 2, 2008, Gary Phillips and the undersigned of AT&T and David Lawson of Sidley Austin LLP met with Matthew Berry, General Counsel, and David Horowitz and Ajit Pai of the Office of General Counsel to discuss the FCC's authority to select regional commercial licensees for the Upper 700 MHz D Block through a request for proposal ("RFP") process administered by Public Safety.

Specifically, AT&T explained that the Commission can and should promulgate rules that authorize a Commission-designated Public Safety Broadband Authority to issue RFPs pursuant to Commission-specified standards and to administer a process of evaluating competing proposals and selecting regional commercial partners that would build and operate a nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network to best meet the evolving needs of state and local public safety users. As AT&T and others have demonstrated in detail in the record of this proceeding, the best means of implementing the public/private partnership that is urgently needed to create a nationwide interoperable wireless broadband network for all public safety users is to establish an RFP-based competitive bidding process, and not to resort again to an auction process that is inherently ill-suited to the effective development of the type of public/private partnership envisioned here. AT&T also explained why there are no legal impediments to RFP-based license assignments.

In accordance with Commission rules, this letter is being filed electronically with your office for inclusion in the public record.

Sincerely,

Ar-

Joan Marsh